

Attorney Docket No.: KUZ0031US.NP
Inventors: Minoru Kohara
Serial No.: 10/584,372
Filing Date: October 26, 2006
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REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 8-13 are pending in the instant application. Claims 1-5 and 8-13 have been rejected. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 12 has been canceled in light of the amendments to claim 1. Support for this amendment is provided by canceled claim 12 and teachings in the specification at paragraph [0030]. No new matter is added by these amendments. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of these amendments and the following remarks.

I. Objection to Claim 12

Claim 12 has been objected to as the word "aluminate" is spelled incorrectly. Claim 12 has been canceled, thus mooted this objection. Elements of claim 12 are now recited in claim 1 wherein the word "aluminate" is spelled correctly.

Withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 8-11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yasukochi et al.

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(WO 03/062342) in view of Hori et al. (U.S. Patent 6,146,656) and Tsubota et al. (U.S. Patent 5,049,417).

Claims 1-5 and 8-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hori et al. (U.S. Patent 6,146,656) in view of Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent 5,851,662).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

In an earnest effort to advance the prosecution of this case, claim 1 has been amended to specify that the pseudo-crosslinking compound is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of hexanediamine, ethylenediamine, diethylenetriamine, potassium aluminate, sodium aluminate, calcium aluminate, resorcinol and hydroquinone. These pseudo-crosslinking compounds were previously presented in claim 12, now canceled, as well as teachings in the specification at paragraph [0030]. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim 1 further recites the ratio of the content of the plasticizer to the content of the pseudo-crosslinking compound ranges from 30:1 to 150:1.

None of the cited references teach or suggest use of one or more of hexanediamine, ethylenediamine, diethylenetriamine, potassium aluminate, sodium aluminate, calcium aluminate, resorcinol or hydroquinone as a pseudo-

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crosslinking agent in a specific ratio to the plasticizer as set forth in claim 1.

Instead, the Examiner has acknowledged teachings of teachings of Yasukochi et al. to be limited to boric acid and derivatives thereof such as borates and boric esters as crosslinking agents; Tsubota et al. to be limited to amino resin, epoxy compounds, boric acid and alkoxides of Ti, Zr. etc. as crosslinking agents; and Suzuki et al. to teach pyrocatechol as the crosslinking agent. Hori et al. is silent with respect to use of any crosslinking agents.

Accordingly, the cited combinations of references do not teach or suggest all elements of the instant claimed invention and therefore cannot render obvious the instant claimed invention.

Withdrawal of this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

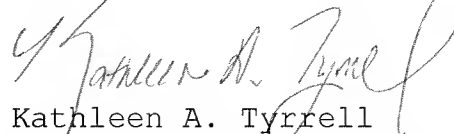
III. Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing comprises a full and complete response to the Office Action of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and subsequent

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allowance of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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